



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi, Head of the OSCE Office in Baku**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 8, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes Ambassador Pavesi to the Permanent Council. We thank you for your report. I also personally would like to thank you for meeting with me the other day. That was very helpful too.

The United States strongly supports the multi-faceted involvement of OSCE and ODIHR in particular, as they work with the Government and people of Azerbaijan in support of democratization. The reruns of Parliamentary elections in ten constituencies were the most recent and visible test for Azerbaijan.

We urge the Office to intensify its support for the Government of Azerbaijan's implementation of ODIHR's comprehensive electoral reform recommendations following the Parliamentary elections.

Democracy, of course, is more than elections. We commend the Office's efforts to advance human rights, fundamental freedoms, and rule of law, including its Freedom of Assembly projects, its involvement with pre-trial detention cases, and its trial monitoring project.

The Office in Baku has a challenging program and there are many things of which to be proud. To help avoid the occasional mis-step in its execution, the United States encourages the Office to seek greater coordination of its activities with those activities that NGOs and participating States are pursuing.

This is particularly important in the areas of trafficking in persons, for which there is a committee in Baku that brings interested parties together to compare notes and to chart a common path ahead. Another important area where the United States would appreciate better coordination is in the Office's involvement in the reform of the civil registry, where there are important data and privacy issues to take into consideration.

Finally, the United States supports the Police Assistance Program in Azerbaijan, including the focus on community policing and the "twinning relationship" between Azerbaijan's Ministry of Interior and the Czech police. We welcome always the up-to-date reports and analysis of the program and its impact on the Police.

Looking ahead, the United States agrees with the Office's proposal to fund police assistance out of the OSCE's Unified Budget. The OSCE needs to take the guesswork out of the funding of police assistance programs, not only in Baku, but also in other OSCE field presences. Including police assistance programs in the Unified Budget is the way to go.

Thank you.